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Christopher W. Kennerly, Esq.
Baker Botts L.L.P.
Suite 600
2001 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75201-2980

EXAMINER	
WANG, JIN CHENG	

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2672	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/680,603	YABLONSKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jin-Cheng Wang	2672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *04 October 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *13-46* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *13-46* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's submission filed on 10/04/2004 has been entered. Claims 1-12 have been canceled. Claims 13, 14, 17-25, 29-36, and 40-46 have been amended. Claims 13-46 are pending in the application.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed Oct. 4, 2004 have been fully considered but are not found persuasive in view of the new ground(s) of rejection of the amended claim 13.

Although it is no clear whether Strasnick discloses the claim limitation of "the first supply chain data axis comprising one or more predetermined positions along the axis each relating a member at the predetermined position along the axis to corresponding supply chain data in the graph at the predetermined position along the axis", "in response to selection of the first level each member of the first level is located at a corresponding first predetermined position along the axis and is related via its corresponding first predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain data in the graph" and "in response to selection the second level each member of the second level is located at a corresponding second predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain data in the graph"; "Display with respect to the first supply chain data axis the one or more members of the first level in the first predetermined manner, each member of the first level being located at its corresponding first predetermined position along the fist supply chain data axis and being related via its corresponding first predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain in the graph" and "display with respect to the first supply chain data axis the one or more members of

the second level in the second predetermined manner, each member of the second level being located at its corresponding second predetermined position along the first supply chain data axis and being related via its corresponding second predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain data in the graph".

However, Rao discloses the claim limitation of "the first supply chain data axis comprising one or more predetermined positions along the axis each relating a member at the predetermined position along the axis to corresponding supply chain data in the graph at the predetermined position along the axis", "in response to selection of the first level each member of the first level is located at a corresponding first predetermined position along the axis and is related via its corresponding first predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain data in the graph" and "in response to selection the second level each member of the second level is located at a corresponding second predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain data in the graph" (e.g., Fig. 13-20 and column 5-11).

Rao also discloses the claim limitation of

"Display with respect to the first supply chain data axis the one or more members of the first level in the first predetermined manner, each member of the first level being located at its corresponding first predetermined position along the fist supply chain data axis and being related via its corresponding first predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain in the graph" and "display with respect to the first supply chain data axis the one or more members of the second level in the second predetermined manner, each member of the second level being located at its corresponding second predetermined position along the first supply

chain data axis and being related via its corresponding second predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain data in the graph" (e.g., Fig. 13-20 and column 5-11).

For example, Rao discloses in Figs. 13-20 and column 5-11 displaying a two-dimensional visual model on a physical medium representing portion of the data set, the visual model having dimensions of the data set represented as at least one hierarchical tree, detecting a user's interaction with the data represented in the visual model, initiating an operation on the data set based on the detected user interaction with the data, the operation converting portions of the data set into the two-dimensional visual model and the at least one hierarchical tree is displayed with the visual model and includes a first dimension hierarchy associated with either a horizontal or a vertical axis. Rao further discloses initiating a select-slice operation that removes a selected dimension from the visual model and the select-slice operation being initiated by the user by pointing to a section of the dimension to be selected and quickly moving the pointing device in a predetermined direction and initiating a repeat-variable operation that causes values corresponding to selected keys of a dimension to be repeated in the visual model for each of the selected keys, initiating a demote/promote operation that changes the dimensionality of the visual model by moving a mark on an axis associated with a dimension. Rao further discloses each member of the first level or the second level being located at its corresponding first or second predetermined position along the supply chain data axis (Figs. 13-20).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to have incorporated Rao's data visualization method because Strasnick discloses hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane of the information with respect to the x-axis and y-axis (See column 1 and 16-17). Strasnick discloses hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane

of the information landscape with respect to the x-axis and y-axis wherein the X- axis of every display object is narrowed or expanded. The 2D plane or 3D box upon which the information objects are drawn has the X-dimension and Y-dimension or x-axis and y-axis as clearly taught by Strasnick in column 16-17. Strasnick discloses adjusting a width or height of a display of the information objects relative to the viewpoint of the user. Strasnick discloses the x-axis being associated with the x dimension of the sales data, the x dimension or horizontal dimension for the x axis being associated with the sales data hierarchy having the parent levels and children levels displayed in the information landscape with the x-axis and y-axis of sales data for the x dimension or the horizontal dimension (see Figure 5B, column 6-8, 16-17, 20).

Moreover, Strasnick teaches in column 7-8 and 19-22 a user selection of a cell representing the company's total sales (a company cell) and all the sub-cells or children cells representing the departments' sales (the department cells) wherein the department cells emanate from the company cell and also all the sub-cells or children cells representing the salespersons' sales (the salesperson cells) wherein the salespersons' cells emanate from one of the departments' cells.

Strasnick teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the hierarchical dependents or children such as the department cells in the first level in response to the selection by the navigator from the company cell. Strasnick teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the departments' cells in the first level in response to the selection by the navigator from the company cell. Strasnick thus teaches, in response to the user selection of the departments' cells in the first level for display of departments' sales data with respect to the x-axis by a warp navigator from the company cell, display on the graph the departments' sales data or departments' cells in the first level.

Strasnick also teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the salespersons' cells in the second level in response to the selection by the navigator from one of the departments' cells. Strasnick discloses, in response to a user selection of the second level for display of salespersons' sales data with respect to the x-axis from a department cell by the warp navigator, display on the graph the salespersons' sales data or the salespersons' cells in the second level.

Therefore, Strasnick suggests the additional claim limitations set forth in the amended claim 13.

One of the ordinary skill in the art is motivated to do this because this allows the multiple dimension visual model being used to clearly present the data set to the user as organized in multiple levels along the multiple axis with each member being labeled (Figs. 13-20).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13, 15-18, 21-23, 24, 26-29, 32-34, 35, 37-40, 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strasnick et al. U.S. Pat. No. 5,861,885 (hereafter Strasnick) in view of Rao et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,628,312 (hereinafter Rao).

1. Claim 13:

Strasnick teaches a system for display graphical information related to a supply chain (See the abstract; figure 13; column 6), comprising:

A database operable to store data associated with the supply chain (column 7); and

A graphical user interface (GUI) coupled to the database and operable to (e.g., column 7 and 8):

Display a graph comprising a plurality of axes (e.g., figures 1-7; column 1 and 16), a first axis being associated with a first dimension of the supply chain data, the first dimension for the first axis being associated with a first predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the first dimension (e.g., column 6-7 and 16)

comprising:

A plurality of levels each comprising one or more members (column 7-8), the plurality of levels comprising a first level (e.g., cells representing the departments' sales) comprising a plurality of members (departments or departments' cells) arranged in a predetermined manner with respect to the first axis (axis has been taught in figures 1-7 and column 1 and 16) and a second level (cells representing the salespersons' sales) comprising a plurality of members (salespersons or salespersons' cells) arranged in a predetermined manner with respect to the first axis (axis has been taught in figures 1-7 and column 1 and 16); and

A parent member in a first level (*the parent member being a department cell in the department level being the parent of all the salespersons cells belonging to the department; column 7-8*) being related to one or more child members in the second level (*the children cells*

are the salespersons cells belonging to the department; see for example, column 7-8, lines 10-30) through a predetermined hierarchical relationship such that supply chain data (*sales data*) for the parent member (*department cell*) in the first level (*department level*) represents an aggregation (*cumulative aggregation such as the cumulative sales data*) of supply chain data for the one or more related child members (*children cells representing the salespersons' sales*) in the second level (salesperson level) and such that supply chain data (*sales data*) for the one or more related child members in the second level (*the children salespersons cells representing the disaggregation of the department cell to which they belong*) represents a disaggregation of supply chain data for the parent member in the first level (column 7 and 8);

In response to selection of the first level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis (*column 7-8 and columns 1 and 16*), display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for each of the plurality of members in the first level (*column 7-8 and columns 1 and 16*), at least one member in the first level being the parent member having the one or more related child members in the second level and representing an aggregation of supply chain data for the one or more related child members (column 7 and 8; *Strasnick teaches in column 7-8 and 19-22 a user selection of a cell representing the company's total sales (a company cell) and all the sub-cells or children cells representing the departments' sales (the department cells) wherein the department cells emanate from the company cell and also all the sub-cells or children cells representing the salespersons' sales (the salesperson cells) wherein the salespersons' cells emanate from one of the departments' cells. Strasnick teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the hierarchical dependents or children such as the department cells in the first level in response to the selection by the navigator from the company*

cell. Strasnick teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the departments' cells in the first level in response to the selection by the navigator from the company cell. Strasnick thus teaches, in response to the user selection of the departments' cells in the first level for display of departments' sales data with respect to the x-axis by a warp navigator from the company cell, display on the graph the departments' sales data or departments' cells in the first level); and

In response to selection of the second level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis (column 7-8 and columns 1 and 16), display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for each of the plurality of members in the second level, one or more members in the second level being the one or more related child members of the parent member in the first level and representing a disaggreagation of supply chain data for the parent member (column 7 and 8; *Strasnick also teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the salespersons' cells in the second level in response to the selection by the navigator from one of the departments' cells. Strasnick discloses, in response to a user selection of the second level for display of salespersons' sales data with respect to the x-axis from a department cell by the warp navigator, display on the graph the salespersons' sales data or the salespersons' cells in the second level*).

- Examiner Notes:
- Strasnick discloses hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane of the information with respect to the x-axis and y-axis (See column 1 and 16-17). Strasnick discloses hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane of the information landscape with respect to the x-axis and y-axis wherein the X- axis of every display object is

narrowed or expanded. The 2D plane or 3D box upon which the information objects are drawn has the X-dimension and Y-dimension or x-axis and y-axis as clearly taught by Strasnick in column 16-17.

- Strasnick discloses adjusting a width or height of a display of the information objects relative to the viewpoint of the user. Strasnick discloses the x-axis being associated with the x dimension of the sales data, the x dimension or horizontal dimension for the x axis being associated with the sales data hierarchy having the parent levels and children levels displayed in the information landscape with the x-axis and y-axis of sales data for the x dimension or the horizontal dimension (see Figure 5B, column 6-8, 16-17, 20). Therefore, Strasnick reads on the claim limitation of "a first axis being associated with a first dimension of the supply chain data, the first dimension for the first axis being associated with a first predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the first dimension."

However, it is no clear whether Strasnick discloses the claim limitation of "the first supply chain data axis comprising one or more predetermined positions along the axis each relating a member at the predetermined position along the axis to corresponding supply chain data in the graph at the predetermined position along the axis", "in response to selection of the first level each member of the first level is located at a corresponding first predetermined position along the axis and is related via its corresponding first predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain data in the graph" and "in response to selection the second level each member of the second level is located at a corresponding second predetermined

position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain data in the graph". It is not clear whether Strasnick discloses the claim limitation of

"Display with respect to the first supply chain data axis the one or more members of the first level in the first predetermined manner, each member of the first level being located at its corresponding first predetermined position along the fist supply chain data axis and being related via its corresponding first predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain in the graph" and "display with respect to the first supply chain data axis the one or more members of the second level in the second predetermined manner, each member of the second level being located at its corresponding second predetermined position along the first supply chain data axis and being related via its corresponding second predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain data in the graph".

However, Rao discloses the claim limitation of "the first supply chain data axis comprising one or more predetermined positions along the axis each relating a member at the predetermined position along the axis to corresponding supply chain data in the graph at the predetermined position along the axis", "in response to selection of the first level each member of the first level is located at a corresponding first predetermined position along the axis and is related via its corresponding first predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain data in the graph" and "in response to selection the second level each member of the second level is located at a corresponding second predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain data in the graph" (e.g., Fig. 13-20 and column 5-11). Rao also discloses the claim limitation of

"Display with respect to the first supply chain data axis the one or more members of the first level in the first predetermined manner, each member of the first level being located at its corresponding first predetermined position along the fist supply chain data axis and being related via its corresponding first predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain in the graph" and "display with respect to the first supply chain data axis the one or more members of the second level in the second predetermined manner, each member of the second level being located at its corresponding second predetermined position along the first supply chain data axis and being related via its corresponding second predetermined position along the axis to its corresponding supply chain data in the graph" (e.g., Fig. 13-20 and column 5-11).

Rao discloses in Figs. 13-20 and column 5-11 displaying a two-dimensional visual model on a physical medium representing portion of the data set, the visual model having dimensions of the data set represented as at least one hierarchical tree, detecting a user's interaction with the data represented in the visual model, initiating an operation on the data set based on the detected user interaction with the data, the operation converting portions of the data set into the two-dimensional visual model and the at least one hierarchical tree is displayed with the visual model and includes a first dimension hierarchy associated with either a horizontal or a vertical axis. Rao further discloses initiating a select-slice operation that removes a selected dimension from the visual model and the select-slice operation being initiated by the user by pointing to a section of the dimension to be selected and quickly moving the pointing device in a predetermined direction and initiating a repeat-variable operation that causes values corresponding to selected keys of a dimension to be repeated in the visual model for each of the selected keys, initiating a demote/promote operation that changes the dimensionality of the visual model by moving a mark

on an axis associated with a dimension. Rao further discloses each member of the first level or the second level being located at its corresponding first or second predetermined position along the supply chain data axis (Figs. 13-20).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to have incorporated Rao's data visualization method because Strasnick discloses hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane of the information with respect to the x-axis and y-axis (See column 1 and 16-17). Strasnick discloses hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane of the information landscape with respect to the x-axis and y-axis wherein the X- axis of every display object is narrowed or expanded. The 2D plane or 3D box upon which the information objects are drawn has the X-dimension and Y-dimension or x-axis and y-axis as clearly taught by Strasnick in column 16-17. Strasnick discloses adjusting a width or height of a display of the information objects relative to the viewpoint of the user. Strasnick discloses the x-axis being associated with the x dimension of the sales data, the x dimension or horizontal dimension for the x axis being associated with the sales data hierarchy having the parent levels and children levels displayed in the information landscape with the x-axis and y-axis of sales data for the x dimension or the horizontal dimension (see Figure 5B, column 6-8, 16-17, 20).

Moreover, Strasnick teaches in column 7-8 and 19-22 a user selection of a cell representing the company's total sales (a company cell) and all the sub-cells or children cells representing the departments' sales (the department cells) wherein the department cells emanate from the company cell and also all the sub-cells or children cells representing the salespersons' sales (the salesperson cells) wherein the salespersons' cells emanate from one of the departments' cells.

Strasnick teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the hierarchical dependents or children such as the department cells in the first level in response to the selection by the navigator from the company cell. Strasnick teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the departments' cells in the first level in response to the selection by the navigator from the company cell. Strasnick thus teaches, in response to the user selection of the departments' cells in the first level for display of departments' sales data with respect to the x-axis by a warp navigator from the company cell, display on the graph the departments' sales data or departments' cells in the first level.

Strasnick also teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the salespersons' cells in the second level in response to the selection by the navigator from one of the departments' cells. Strasnick discloses, in response to a user selection of the second level for display of salespersons' sales data with respect to the x-axis from a department cell by the warp navigator, display on the graph the salespersons' sales data or the salespersons' cells in the second level.

Therefore, Strasnick suggests the additional claim limitations set forth in the amended claim 13.

One of the ordinary skill in the art is motivated to do this because this allows the multiple dimension visual model being used to clearly present the data set to the user as organized in multiple levels along the multiple axis with each member being labeled (Figs. 13-20).

Claim 15:

The claim 15 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a seller dimension associated with a seller hierarchy; each of the plurality of members in the first level of the seller hierarchy representing all sellers within a corresponding geographic region; and each of the plurality of members in the second level of the seller hierarchy representing all sellers within a corresponding sub-region of a region represented by a member in the first level.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a seller dimension associated with a seller hierarchy (column 6-8); each of the plurality of members in the first level of the seller hierarchy representing all sellers within a corresponding geographic region (column 7); and each of the plurality of members in the second level of the seller hierarchy representing all sellers within a corresponding sub-region of a region represented by a member in the first level (column 8).

Claim 16:

The claim 16 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a product dimension associated with a product hierarchy; each of the plurality of members in the first level of the product hierarchy representing all products associated with a corresponding product category; and each of the plurality of members in the second level of the product hierarchy representing all products associated with a corresponding sub-category of a product category represented by a member in the first level.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a product dimension associated with a product hierarchy; each of the plurality of

members in the first level of the product hierarchy representing all products associated with a corresponding product category; and each of the plurality of members in the second level of the product hierarchy representing all products associated with a corresponding sub-category of a product category represented by a member in the first level (column 22).

Claim 17:

The claim 17 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a time dimension associated with a time hierarchy; each of the plurality of members in the first level of the time hierarchy representing all times with a corresponding time period; and each of the plurality of members in the second level of the time hierarchy representing all times within a corresponding sub-period of a time period represented by a member in the first level.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a time dimension associated with a time hierarchy; each of the plurality of members in the first level of the time hierarchy representing all times with a corresponding time period; and each of the plurality of members in the second level of the time hierarchy representing all times within a corresponding sub-period of a time period represented by a member in the first level (column 22).

Claim 18:

The claim 18 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the GUI operable to, in response to selection of a particular member of the first level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the selected particular member.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the GUI operable to, in response to selection of a particular member of the first level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the selected particular member (column 8 and 10).

Claim 21:

The claim 21 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of "receiving a filter selection specifying a particular member within a level for which a graphical representation of supply chain data for the particular member is not to be displayed on the graph; and in response to receiving the filter selection and selection of a level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for each member in the selected level other than the particular member specified in the filter selection."

However, Strasnick further discloses the claim limitation of receiving a filter selection specifying a particular member within a level for which a graphical representation of supply chain data for the particular member is not to be displayed on the graph; and in response to receiving the filter selection and selection of a level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for each member in the selected level other than the particular member specified in the filter selection (column 8 and 20).

Claim 22:

The claim 22 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 21 except additional claimed limitation of "displaying a window indicating the particular member specified

in the filter selection, and in response to selection the particular member displayed in the window, display on the first axis of the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the particular member in addition to the graphical representation of supply chain data for the other members in the level of the particular member."

However, Strasnick further discloses the claim limitation of displaying a window indicating the particular member specified in the filter selection, and in response to selection the particular member displayed in the window, display on the first axis of the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the particular member in addition to the graphical representation of supply chain data for the other members in the level of the particular member (column 8 and 20).

Claim 23:

The claim 23 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the graph comprising three axes, each axis associated with a dimension of the supply chain, each dimension of supply chain data being associated with a predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the dimension.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the graph comprising three axes, each axis associated with a dimension of the supply chain, each dimension of supply chain data being associated with a predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the dimension (e.g., figure 1; column 1 and 3).

2. Claim 24:

The claim 24 is a re-phrasing of the claim 13 in a method form. The claim 13 is subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claim 13.

Claims 26-29:

The claims 26-29 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 15-18.

Claim 32-34:

The claims 32-34 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 21-23.

3. Claim 35:

The claim 35 is subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claim 13.

Claims 37-40:

The claims 37-40 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 15-18.

Claims 43-45:

The claims 43-45 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 21-23.

4. Claim 46:

The claim 46 is subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claim 23.

Claims 14, 19-20, 25, 30-31, 36, 41-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strasnick U.S. Patent No. 5,861,885 (hereinafter Strasnick) in view of Rao et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,628,312 (hereinafter Rao).

Claim 14:

The claim 14 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of "a second axis of the graph being associated with a second dimension of the supply chain data".

However, Strasnick further discloses the layout of the cell hierarchy in a tree structure wherein horizontal dimension to enable more visible objects to appear on the display simultaneously together and the vertical or Y dimension of the displayed data objects may be compressed as well. Strasnick therefore suggests a second axis for displaying the hierarchical levels of information associated with a second dimension of the supply chain data similar to the first axis for displaying the hierarchical levels of information associated with a first dimension of the supply chain data (column 16).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the second axis of the graph being associated with a second dimension of the supply chain data into the Strasnick and Rao's invention to provide multidimensional manipulation of hierarchical levels of the supply chain data (column 16).

Claim 19:

The claim 19 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 18 except additional claimed limitation of "the GUI operable to display on the graph only the graphical representation of the supply chain data for the selected particular member".

However, Strasnick further discloses the layout of the cell hierarchy in a tree structure wherein horizontal dimension to enable more visible objects to appear on the display simultaneously together and displayed objects being displayed in altered or shrunken perspective (column 16).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the "display on the graph only" into the Strasnick and Rao's invention to provide a different form of navigator viewing of the hierarchical level of the supply chain data.

Claim 20:

The claim 20 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 18 except additional claimed limitation of "the GUI operable to display on the graph only the graphical representation of the supply chain data for the parent member of each non-selected member of the first level."

However, Strasnick further discloses the layout of the cell hierarchy in a tree structure wherein horizontal dimension to enable more visible objects to appear on the display simultaneously together using different perspective (column 16).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the "display on the graph the graphical representation of the supply chain data for the parent member" into the Strasnick and Rao's invention to provide a different form of navigator viewing of the hierarchical level of the supply chain data.

Claims 25, 30-31:

The claims 25 and 30-31 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 14 and 19-20.

Claims 36, 41-42:

The claims 36 and 41-42 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 14 and 19-20.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jin-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (571) 272-7665. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 6:30 (Mon-Thu).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Razavi can be reached on (571) 272-7664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jcw

MICHAEL RAZAVI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600